

**Questions from House Science Committee,
Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards**

NOAA Research Review Team

November 10, 2003

Question 1: Please provide a final copy of the Research Review Team's charter and charge.

Answer:

Attached is a copy of the letter from Vice Admiral Lautenbacher to Dr. Pietrafesa, Interim Chair of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), requesting the review. The letter contains the team's charge and charter.

Question 2: What are NOAA's goals for the Research Review Team?

Answer:

The goal is to provide advice on methods to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of NOAA's research enterprise. Additionally the team's recommendations will assist NOAA in responding to language in the 2004 House and Senate Commerce, Justice, and State appropriation reports.

Question 3: What materials will be supplied to the Research Review Team as background information?

Answer:

Information has been provided to the team on the OAR strategic plan, budget and administrative resources, facilities, and an overview, profile and accomplishments of each laboratory and program in OAR. In addition, the NOAA strategic plan, Program Review report, and NOAA Research Council charter were provided. The review team has had discussions with a broad spectrum of NOAA leadership.

Question 4: Given that you recently completed (in June 2002) an agency-wide program review, and that you currently have the NOAA Research Council developing guidelines for ensuring that 50% of the new grant money is for extramural research, what are the benefits of the current study outlined for the Research Review Team?

Answer:

The review team's assessment will assist NOAA leadership in improving the quality and relevance of research to current and future operations and the management and organizational structure for research.

Question 5: Please provide financial disclosure information about the non-NOAA members of the Research Review Team, particularly describing the extent to which their institutions receive NOAA funding.

Answer:

The review team members receive no compensation for their work but NOAA is paying all costs for this study, including travel. The non-NOAA members of the review team are: Dr. Berrien Moore, Chair, University of New Hampshire; Dr. Warren Washington, National Center for Atmospheric Research; and RADM Richard West, Consortium on Oceanographic Research and Education. Total FY 03 NOAA awards to their respective institutions in are as follows:

University of New Hampshire: \$33.3M

National Center for Atmospheric Research/University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research: \$19.6M

Consortium on Oceanographic Research and Education: \$0.9M

Question 6: What are the anticipated activities of the Research Review Team? To what extent will there be opportunity for public input, particularly from universities and non-governmental organizations that work closely with NOAA. To what extent will there be meetings with NOAA employees?

Answer:

The review team has already had discussions with a broad spectrum of NOAA leadership. The review team plans to talk with a number of groups representing universities, non-governmental institutions and other interested parties. There are plans to talk to the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the Consortium on Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE), National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), Joint Institutes and others. In addition, the review team plans open meetings, at the AGU and AMS annual meetings, where all interested parties share their views. The SAB held a public meeting November 3-4, 2003 at which it solicited public comment on all NOAA science programs. During that meeting there was a 2-hour presentation and discussion on the review team's efforts to date. A member of the House Science Committee attended that session. This meeting was announced in the October 17, 2003 Federal Register Notice. There is another SAB public meeting scheduled for January 6, 2004 where the review team will present an update on their efforts and additional discussions will be held.

Question 7: After the report is drafted, will there be an opportunity for public comment? If so, by whom and by what means? The Science Committee requests a copy of the Research Review Team's report to NOAA and a copy of NOAA's report to the Appropriations Committees, due December 15, 2003 and March 15, 2004, respectively.

Answer:

Public comments will be solicited through a Federal Register Notice on or about December 15, 2003. There will also be a public comment period at the NOAA Science Advisory Board meeting on January 6, 2004. Copies of the reports will be provided to the Science Committee as requested.